



State Senator **NANCY CASSIS**

E-NEWS UPDATE

Governor Vetoes Tax Relief

Unfortunately, the governor has vetoed legislation I sponsored cutting the alternative tax rate for the Single Business Tax in half for 35,000 small businesses. Small businesses are the engine that drives Michigan's economy. They employ more than two-thirds of Michigan workers, and this legislation would have provided needed tax relief to help spur growth.

In conjunction with House and Senate members, we will diligently continue to work together to improve Michigan's business climate and put people back to work.

Restoring Metroparks Funding

The Senate Appropriations Committee has taken up legislation I sponsored to restore funding to Michigan metroparks and other eligible authorities. This would address the consequences of the 2004 acceleration of county property tax payments that led to the loss of funding for parks such as the Huron-Clinton Metropark Authority (HCMA). Because of the tax shift, HCMA has lost \$530,000 from its annual budget, which could adversely affect Indian Springs, Stony Creek and Kensington metroparks in Oakland County, as well as airport, park and transportation authorities across the state.

I was joined by Laurie Van Pelt, the director of management and budget for the Oakland County executive's office. We emphasized the quality of life issues at stake and that the reduction in funding was not a decision taken with due deliberation but rather an unintended consequence that needed to be redressed. The Appropriations Committee seemed engaged with this issue, and it will likely become part of budget deliberations.

Contact Information:

The E-News Update by Senator Nancy Cassis is designed to provide residents and organizations with a periodic update of my activity in Lansing. If you have any questions or do not wish to receive this e-mail, please contact my office.

Phone: (888) 38-NANCY Fax: (517) 373-0938

Mail: P.O. Box 30036, Lansing, MI 48909

E-mail: sennccassis@senate.michigan.gov.

Our website address is: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/cassis/index.htm>